

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

BULLETIN

VOL. 15, No. 5

NOVEMBER—DECEMBER, 1946

FATHER LINK

On Monday, November 25, Rev. George M. Link will present an illustrated lecture on "Wildlife by the Wayside". Father Link, naturalist and clergyman of Michael, Illinois, is well known to St. Louisans, many of whom have had the pleasure of accompanying him on field trips at Pere Marquette State Park, where he has been Illinois State Naturalist. His kodachrome film gives you an opportunity to study back-door wildlife, in color and in characteristic habitat. He calls it a "homey" film, about outdoor friends of field and garden. The leads are given to such popular actors as the cardinal, the bluebird, tiger swallow-tail butterfly, azalea and the box turtle. In supporting roles: woodthrush, yellow warbler, cedar waxwing, white-throated, white-crowned, song and chipping sparrows, brown thrasher, house wren, hummingbird, chickadee, frogs, bumblebee, landsnail, and many others—in a world of white trillium, Canada thistle, colorful mushrooms, cardinal flowers, ferns and lily pads. A fine way, incidentally, to pick up identification pointers — on birds, flowers, mammals and insects everyone should know. This lecture is the second of the newly-inaugurated "Local Programs". It will be held at Brown Hall, Washington University, at 8:15 P. M. Brown Hall is on the south side of the campus, near Skinker and Wydown, and not far from bus and street car lines.



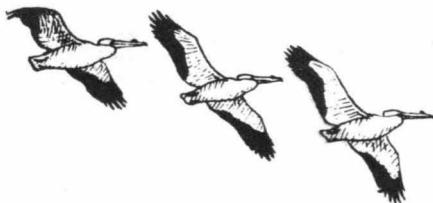
Karl H. Maslowski

SAGUAROLAND

Karl Maslowski of Cincinnati returns to the lecture platform in St. Louis after two and a half years in service, during which time the Army Air Corps made use of his skill with the camera lens by assigning him to combat service in North Africa, Italy, Persia, France and Austria. Now he will recount an Arizona adventure—a story of the land where the saguaro grows, the giant cactus so useful to both men and beasts of the desert. Mr. Maslowski, who has won nationwide fame as a naturalist, writer and photographer of the first rank, took these beautiful movies in the Chiricahua Mountains, Saguaro National Monument, and Organ Pipe Cactus National Park. He has so sharply filmed the cactus varieties in closeup that one practically smells their fragrance, almost feels their spines. And living among them the colorful and distinctive birds of the area: Bullock's oriole, desert sparrow, Gamble's quail, canyon towhee, Fuertes' red-tailed hawk, vermillion flycatchers. Gila monster. Mud dauber wasp. The curious roadrunner, and its curious home problems. And besides these a weird assortment of nocturnal creatures of the desert which also are a part of the population of this strange Saguoland. Desert country, but far from being deserted. Pictured also are cliff dwellings; "Montezuma's Castle" and many artifacts excavated there. This program, the Audubon Screen Tour for December, will be at Soldan High School, Thursday, December 5, at 8:15 P. M.

AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS

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| December | 5— "Saguoland": Karl H. Maslowski of Cincinnati |
| January | 16— "Animals Unaware": Howard Cleaves of New York |
| February | 21— "Where the West Begins": Alfred M. Bailey of Denver |
| March | 31— "Lakelore": Howard L. Orians of Milwaukee |
| April | 22— "Field Guide to the Familiar": Roger Tory Peterson of New York |
- All Screen Tours at Soldan High School, 8:15 P. M.



ST. LOUIS BIRD CLUB BULLETIN

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LEONARD HALL

On Friday October 25 Leonard Hall started off the Club's Local Programs with an illustrated talk on "The Conservation Question". His subject was the vital problem of land use and its relation to wildlife conservation. While his subject matter and examples were based on instances near at hand, within the state of Missouri, the implications of the discussion were nationwide and worldwide in character. Many of the beautiful colored slides which accompanied were made from photographs by Myron Northrop, Club Secretary, and close friend of the Halls. This stimulating evening, with its tone of friendly informality, was certainly an auspicious inauguration of the "Local Programs".

PROGRAM HONORING EDWARD K. LOVE

The St. Louis Bird Club awarded its annual Conservation Citation on Friday November 15 to Edward K. Love, outstanding for his constructive efforts in the cause of conservation. In appropriate tribute to Mr. Love, John H. Storer presented his new film, "Our Living Earth", a brilliant color motion picture telling graphically the meaning and importance of conservation. Mr. Storer was introduced by Mr. E. G. Cherbonnier. The film started with the very creating of soil, proceeded through the stages of its formation and growth. The building of a plant from sunlight, air, earth and water...In slow motion the erosive effect of a single raindrop...The importance of animal life, food chains, and the role of predators in maintaining balance among living creatures...The basic principles of conservation...And in addition such portrayal of the beauties of nature as to remind us of the intangible as well as material benefits to be derived from a wise and intelligent use of natural resources.

NOTE TO TEACHERS

Among the new natural science materials at the Division of Audio-Visual Education are some outstanding color motion pictures of birds. While titles have not yet been published and distributed the films are available now and can be borrowed for use in the St. Louis Public Schools.

BIRD QUIZ

Following are some common or local nicknames for birds which most of us know by other names. How many can you identify?

1. Sprig?
2. Whistler?
3. Butter-ball?
4. Little meadowlark?
5. Preacher?
6. Swamp angel?
7. Good-God?
8. Bull-bat?
9. Hell-divers?
10. Black Jack?

For correct answers turn to page 4. A total of 60% correct is good. 70% very good. Anything over that is excellent.

LOCAL PROGRAM

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|----------|---|
| November | 25—"Wildlife by the Wayside": Rev. George M. Link, Brown Hall, Washington University. |
| January | 3—"Adventures in Wildlife Painting": R. P. Grossenheider, Jefferson Memorial. |
| February | 3—"Browsing with Birdiana": Gertrude Drury, Public Library, 13th and Olive. |
| March | 7—"Indoor Field Trip": Elizabeth Golterman-Marvin Beckmann, Div. Audio-Visual Educ., 4466 Olive St. |
| April | 11—"A Look at Birds": Wayne Short, Academy of Science, 4642 Lindell. |
| May | 19—ANNUAL MEETING. "Out-of-doors in New England": Carl W. Buchheister, Brown Hall, Washington University. |



Observations

The Bird Club's annual Spring Census on May 5 was a record-breaking one. Total number of species observed was 184, the largest list ever recorded on a single day for this area. The Census was taken in conjunction with the Club's second bird walk of the season at Forest Park. Birds listed were all seen within a 50 mile radius of St. Louis. Assisting the St. Louis Bird Club were members of the Mo. Audubon Society, many of them being here for their annual meeting that weekend; the Webster Groves Nature Study Society; Rockwoods Reservation at Glencoe; the Trailfinders at Michael, Illinois; and students and faculty of the Principia, at Elsah, Illinois. It was thanks to these friends and to the many ardent members of our own Club, who fine-combed the woods and streams and lakes and swamps and orchards of our area that this remarkable list was achieved. The previous record had been 177. Highest individual list for the day was recorded by our Club President, Wayne Short, 117 species, which surpasses a fifteen year record of 114 held by a past president of the Club, Richard H. Pough. The best bird of the day was a western willet, observed in St. Charles County. Other outstanding observations were two wilson's phalaropes, and a sycamore warbler. There were many other fine observations, too, as you can see from the complete list, which follows:

Pied-billed grebe, white pelican, double-crested cormorant, great blue heron, American egret, little blue heron, eastern green heron, black-crowned night heron, American bittern, white-fronted goose, blue goose, common mallard, baldpate, American pintail, blue-winged teal, wood duck, ring-necked duck, lesser scaup duck, ruddy duck, turkey vulture, sharp-shinned hawk, red-tailed hawk, red-shouldered hawk, broad-winged hawk, marsh hawk, American osprey, duck hawk, sparrow hawk, bob-white, ring-necked pheasant, king rail, Virginia rail, sora, American coot, semipalmated plover, killdeer, Wilson's snipe, upland plover, spotted sandpiper, solitary sandpiper, western willet, greater yellowlegs, lesser yellowlegs, pectoral sandpiper, least sandpiper, semipalmated sandpiper, Wilson's phalarope, herring gull, ring-billed gull, Forster's tern, common tern, least tern, black tern, rock dove, mourning dove, yellow-billed cuckoo, black-billed cuckoo, great horned owl, barred owl, chuck-will's-widow, whip-poor-will, nighthawk, chimney swift, ruby-throated hummingbird, belted kingfisher, northern flicker, pileated woodpecker, red-bellied woodpecker, red-headed woodpecker, yellow-bellied sapsucker, hairy woodpecker, downy woodpecker, eastern kingbird, northern crested flycatcher, eastern phoebe, Acadian flycatcher, alder flycatcher, least flycatcher, wood pewee, northern horned lark, tree swallow, bank swallow, rough-winged swallow, barn swallow, cliff swallow, purple martin, blue jay, eastern crow, black-capped chickadee, Carolina chickadee, tufted titmouse, white-breasted nuthatch, brown creeper, western house wren, eastern winter wren, Bewick's wren, Carolina wren, prairie marsh wren,

short-billed marsh wren, mockingbird, catbird, brown thrasher, eastern robin, wood thrush, hermit thrush, olive-backed thrush, gray-cheeked thrush, willow thrush, eastern bluebird, blue-gray gnatcatcher, ruby-crowned kinglet, cedar waxwing, migrant shrike, starling, white-eyed vireo, Bell's vireo, yellow-throated vireo, red-eyed vireo, Philadelphia vireo, warbling vireo, black and white warbler, prothonotary warbler, worm-eating warbler, blue-winged warbler, Tennessee warbler, orange-crowned warbler, Nashville warbler, northern parula warbler, yellow warbler, magnolia warbler, Cape May warbler, myrtle warbler, black-throated green warbler, cerulean warbler, Blackburnian warbler, sycamore warbler, chestnut-sided warbler, bay-breasted warbler, black-poll warbler, northern prairie warbler, western palm warbler, oven-bird, northern waterthrush, Louisiana waterthrush, Kentucky warbler, Connecticut warbler, northern yellowthroat, yellow-breasted chat, hooded warbler, Wilson's warbler, Canada warbler, American redstart, English sparrow, European tree sparrow, bobolink, eastern meadowlark, eastern red-wing, orchard oriole, Baltimore oriole, rusty blackbird, bronzed grackle, cowbird, scarlet tanager, summer tanager, cardinal, rose-breasted grosbeak, blue grosbeak, indigo bunting, dickcissel, purple finch, eastern goldfinch, red-eyed towhee, Savannah sparrow, grasshopper sparrow, vesper sparrow, lark sparrow, chipping sparrow, clay-colored sparrow, eastern field sparrow, white-crowned sparrow, white-throated sparrow, swamp sparrow, Mississippi song sparrow.

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The Spring Bird Walks in Forest Park were held on April 28, May 5, May 12, May 19. Thanks to the generous and loyal assistance of a group of capable Club members we were once again able to offer this educational service to St. Louis citizens. Despite some rainy weather the turn-outs were very fine. One hundred and eight species of birds in all were seen on the four walks. This was somewhat less than the corresponding 1945 figure, which was 131. Among the good finds were an immature bald eagle, observed flying over the park; double-crested cormorant; yellow-bellied flycatcher, red-breasted nuthatch, and mourning warbler.

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Avocets! Yes, two avocets were observed over an eight day period, from Oct. 19 to Oct. 27. They were first seen by a group comprising: 'Bud' Barry, Arthur Christ, James Earl Comfort, David Dale, Susan Grumman, Mrs. Corida Hanna, Mrs. O. C. K. Hutchinson, Dick Reiche, Jack Van Benthuysen, Mrs. N. Waterbury. Later also by Beulah Bedell, Ellen Cone, Helen Espanier, Lucy Elliott, Hattie Ettinger, Marion Freer, Helen Henke, Lonnier Laird, Kurt Wessling, Ethel Wolfe. No doubt others got to see them too, for they very obligingly stayed out in good view, and allowed visitors to come quite close.

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Ethel Wolfe discovered fourteen 'common loons' at Lake Park on November 2.



Who's Who?



We extend a warm welcome to the following members who have been recorded for the 1946-47 season as our bulletin goes to press: Esther Lee Abramowitz, Mrs. J. S. Adsit, May Aransmeyer, Emma Barrioz, Miss C. J. Barrere, Mrs. Frances R. Bartlett, Norman D. Blair, T. L. Blayne, Arthur Boroughs, Mrs. F. Ewald Bosse, M. L. Brand, Roy Branderburger, Mrs. Marie P. Brown, George B. Bullock, Ernest J. Caldwell, Percy Coleman, Florence Coleways, Clifford Cravens, June I. Cravens, Burly Cummings, Nancy J. Cummings, W. E. Ebert, Mrs. W. E. Ebert, Mrs. Oliver Evans, Bill Foster, Mrs. Milton Frolichstein, G. Donald Gibbins, Sara L. Greenbury, Nevin M. Guetebier, Mrs. Edw. J. Guetebier, Maud Gunn, B. F. Hall, Miss Angela E.

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EXTRA SUBSCRIPTION TO AUDUBON MAGAZINE?

In some instances two or more persons in a family are regular or sustaining members of the Bird Club and the National Audubon Society. In those cases there is sometimes an 'extra' subscription to Audubon Magazine, which goes unused. It is simple to arrange to have this sent as a gift to some friend. Another suggestion would be to have this extra sub-

scription sent to a library or hospital where it would be available for use by many readers. There are several such places in St. Louis which would be most gratified to receive this fine magazine of the out-of-doors. If you would like to make such arrangements, phone or write the Club's executive secretary.

ANSWERS TO BIRD QUIZ

1. Pintail.
2. Golden-eye.
3. Ruddy duck and bufflehead.
4. Dickcissel.
5. Red-eyed vireo.
6. Wood thrush.
7. Pileated woodpecker.
8. Nighthawk.
9. Grebes.
10. Lesser scaup and ring-necked ducks.

It is not only interesting but also useful to know the nicknames of birds. Often one can acquire information or can hear interesting stories from hunters, farmers, and other "non-birders" who use these colloquial names only, in referring to birds they know and observe. The origin of some of these nicknames is sometimes apparent, being based on known characteristics, such as the coloring of the "little meadowlark", the melodic song of the

"swamp angel", the rotund shape of the "butter-ball", the disappearing act of the "hell-divers", the whistling sound of the golden-eye's wings in flight. On the other hand the red-eyed vireo is said to derive its interesting title from the tempo and style of its saying "You see it—you know it—do you hear me? Do you believe it?". Others such as the nicknames of the lesser scaup and ring-necked ducks and of the pileated woodpecker seem on the surface at least quite obscure. If you know the origin of these, or of any others that might be of special interest, do let us hear from you by mail.

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